4/14/79

POSTSCRIPT

Over at James R. Schlesinger's office the other day everybody knew the energy czar was going to be the Cover Boy on this week's Time. The dialogue went like this:

Schlesinger: Does anyone have any idea what this Time cover's going to look like?

Reply: We have no idea.

Schlesinger: Well, I hope to hell they don't put me in a Superman suit.

Which they did.

Which they also for Henry Kissinger some time back, and it was downhill for him from then on.

At its now widely secret meeting on March 17, the House Assassinations Committee discussed ways to get around the standard procedure of going to the House floor for case-by-case approval to file lawsuits, sue for access to grand jury minutes and obtain contempt orders and stuff like that. Rep. Floyd Fithian (D-Ind.) had the answer: they might try "just by language and grammatical construction... you know," put it into the bill without arousing to much attention. "As Franklin Roosevelt once said," Fithian mused aloud, "can't you just weave it in" The answer was no.

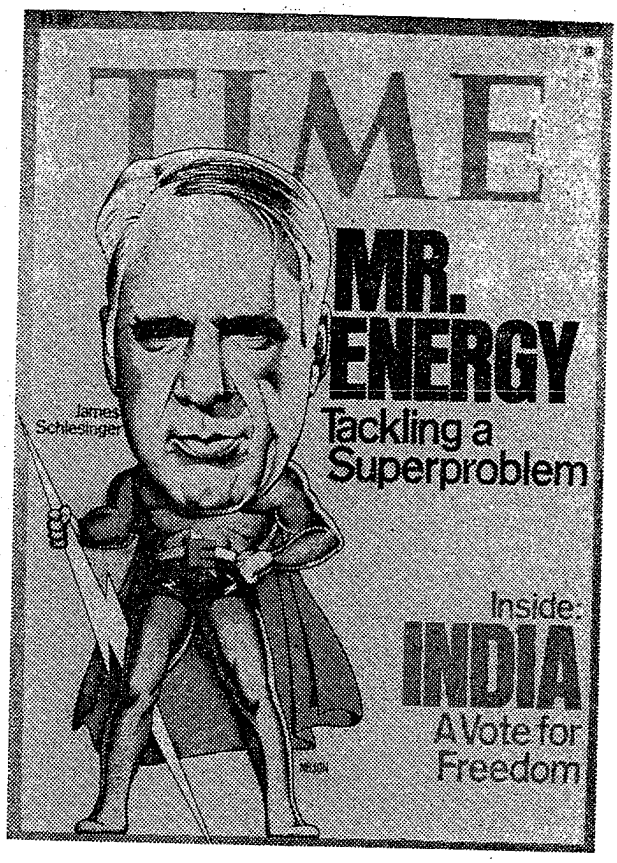
Along the austerity trail: Chairman Robert N. Giaimo (D-Conn.) of the House Budget Committee is now charging members for the tea or coffee they are served by staff members during hearings.

Which isn't all that bad, when you consider that the Alabama state prisons have stopped serving coffee at every meal, and now give it out only on Sundays and holidays. The inmates had been using something like 2,000 pounds a month.

But probably getting all the coffee he wants is old G. Gordon Liddy, the only Watergate burglar still in prison, who's doing his time at Allenwood, Pa., typing up the daily menus as a kitchen clerk, while waiting—he hopes—for President Carter to reduce his sentence.

If there weren't enough trouble for the $20 million Bayou Chene dredging project in Louisiana because it's on Carter's "hit list," the Interior Department has found that a family of Southern bald eagles has built a nest in the area, and Interior, in the person of Deputy Assistant Secretary Stanley B. Doremus, has advised the Corps of Engineers that the eagles' welfare should be included in the final environmental impact statement on the project.

Now that Connecticut's financial health has improved, Gov. Ella T. Grasso said she will stop giving money she makes from speaking engagements to the state. From now on the extra cash—she has earned more than $10,000 in the last 15 months—will go to charity. Then, she could share it with a needy senator from Maine.



Will it be all downhill for him from here?

Rep. Clarence J. Brown, the Republican from Ohio, has released his most recent survey of how many members of Congress have been Boy Scouts or leaders or both. For the record, the rigure is 314, or 58.7 per cent a 1 per cent increase over the 94th Congress. That why so much legislation is tied up in knots?

The Washington Journalism Review folks, who had trouble with spelling in their subscription mailer, also tripped on tense, saying what the review is, what it does, what it's examining. That should be future, not present: it doesn't say so in the flier, but the double sawbuck you send in today will get you a magazine—in September.

For April Fool's Day, somebody sent out a bogus news release on HEW stationery announcing that Secretary Joseph A. Califano Jr. has hired a personal manicurist at $27,000 a year. The phony statement identified the new hire as "Miss Betty Jane Hangnail." nail.'

—Robert H. Williams